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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/800,065

03/12/2004

David Hepworth

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06/29/2006

EXAMINER

COPPINS, JANET L

PFIZER INC.

PATENT DEPARTMENT, MS8260-1611

EASTERN POINT ROAD

GROTON, CT 06340

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1626

DATE MAILED: 06/29/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/800,065	<b>Applicant(s)</b> HEPWORTH, DAVID	
	<b>Examiner</b> Janet L. Coppins	<b>Art Unit</b> 1626	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 January 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-33 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 15-33 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>11/16/05 / 6/14/04</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. Claims 1-33 are pending in the instant application.

#### ***Information Disclosure Statement***

2. Applicants' Information Disclosure Statements, filed June 14, 2004 and January 10, 2005, have been considered by the Examiner. Please refer to the signed copies of Applicants' PTO-1449 forms submitted herewith.

#### ***Election/Restrictions***

3. The Markush group set forth in the claims includes both independent and distinct inventions, and patentably distinct compounds (or species) within each invention. Moreover, each of these inventions contains a plurality of patentably distinct compounds, also far too numerous to list individually. For these reasons provided below, restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 1-13, drawn to compounds and their pharmaceutical compositions according to formulae (I) and (Ia), classified in class 548, subclass 152.
- II. Claim 14, drawn to a pharmaceutical composition of Group I, containing additional ingredients, classified in various subclasses of class 514.
- III. Claims 15-26, drawn to methods of using compounds of Group I, classified in class 514, subclass 367.
- IV. Claims 27-33, drawn to method of using a composition of Group II, containing additional ingredients, classified in various subclasses of class 514.

***The above Groups represent general areas wherein the inventions are independent and distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:***

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4. Inventions I and II are related to Inventions III and IV as products and process of use.

The inventions can be shown to be distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) the process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product or (2) the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using that product (MPEP § 806.05(h)). In the instant case, the process as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product since there are many known methods for treating hypertension, for example, administering calcium channel blockers. Therefore separate search conditions are involved, which would impose a burden if unrestricted.

5. Because these inventions are independent or distinct for the reasons given above and the inventions require a different field of search (see MPEP § 808.02), restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

#### ***Advisory of a Rejoinder***

6. The following is a recitation of MPEP 821.04, Rejoinder:

Where product and process claims drawn to independent and distinct inventions are presented in the same application, applicant may be called upon under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect claims to either the product or process. See MPEP § 806.05(f) and § 806.05(h). The claims to the nonelected invention will be withdrawn from further consideration under 37 CFR 1.142. See MPEP § 809.02(c) and § 821 through § 821.03. However, if applicant elects claims directed to the product, and a product claim is subsequently found allowable, withdrawn process claims which depend from or otherwise include all the limitations of the allowable product claim will be rejoined.

Where the application as originally filed discloses the product and the process for making and/or using the product, and only claims directed to the product are presented for examination, when a product claim is found allowable, applicant may present claims directed to the process of making and/or using the patentable product by way of amendment pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121. In view of the rejoinder procedure, and in order to expedite prosecution, applicants are encouraged to present such process claims, preferably as dependent claims, in the application at an early stage of prosecution. Process claims which depend from or otherwise include all the limitations of the patentable product will be entered as a matter of right if the amendment is presented prior to final rejection or allowance. Amendments submitted after final rejection are governed by 37 CFR 1.116. Process claims which do not depend from or otherwise include the limitations of the patentable product will be withdrawn from consideration, via an election by original presentation (see MPEP § 821.03). Amendments submitted after allowance are governed by 37 CFR 1.312. Process claims which depend from or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed product claim and which meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 101, 102, 103, and 112 may be entered.

Where product and process claims are presented in a single application and that application qualifies under the transitional restriction practice pursuant to 37 CFR 1.129(b), applicant may either: (A) elect the invention to

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be searched and examined and pay the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(s) and have the additional inventions searched and examined under 37 CFR 1.129(b)(2); or (B) elect the invention to be searched and examined and not pay the additional fee (37 CFR 1.129(b)(3)). Where no additional fee is paid, if the elected invention is directed to the product and the claims directed to the product are subsequently found patentable, process claims which either depend from or include all the limitations of the allowable product will be rejoined. If applicant chooses to pay the fees to have the additional inventions searched and examined pursuant to 37 CFR 1.129(b)(2) even if the product is found allowable, applicant would not be entitled to a refund of the fees paid under 37 CFR 1.129(b) by arguing that the process claims could have been rejoined. 37 CFR 1.26(a) states that "[T]he Commissioner may refund any fee paid by mistake or in excess of that required. A change of purpose after the payment of a fee...will not entitle a party to a refund of such fee..." In this case, the fees paid under 37 CFR 1.129(b) were not paid by mistake nor paid in excess, therefore, applicant would not be entitled to a refund. In the event of rejoinder, the rejoined process claims will be fully examined for patentability in accordance with 37 CFR 1.104. Thus, to be allowable, the rejoined claims must meet all criteria for patentability including the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 101, 102, 103, and 112. If the application containing the rejoined claims is not in condition for allowance, the subsequent Office action may be made final, or, if the application was already under final rejection, the next Office action may be an advisory action.

7. The following is a recitation from paragraph five, "Guidance on Treatment of Product and Process Claims in light of *In re Ochiai*, *In re Brouwer* and 35 U.S.C. 103(b)" (1184 TMOG 86(March 26, 1996)):

"However, in the case of an elected product claim, rejoinder will be permitted when a product claim is found allowable and the withdrawn process claim **depends from or otherwise includes all of the limitations of an allowed product claim**. Withdrawn process claims not commensurate in scope with an allowed product claim will not be rejoined." (emphasis added)

Therefore, in accordance with MPEP 821.04 and *In re Ochiai*, 71 F. 3d 1565, 37 USPQ 1127 (Fed. Cir. 1995), rejoinder of product claims with process claims commensurate in scope with the allowed product will occur following a finding that the product claims are allowable. Until, such time, a restriction between product claims and process claims is deemed proper. Additionally, in order to retain the right to rejoinder in accordance with the above policy, Applicant is advised that the process claims should be amended during prosecution to maintain either dependency on the product claims or to otherwise include the limitations of the product claims. **Failure to do so may result in a loss of the right to rejoinder.**

8. During a telephone conversation with Ms. Martha Munchhof, Reg. No. 47,811, on June 21, 2006, a provisional election was made with traverse to prosecute the invention of Group I,

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claims 1-13, drawn to compounds and their compositions. Applicants' traversal is directed to the distinction between Groups I and II, as well as Groups III and IV, based on the argument that the compound/composition Groups should be examined together, and all remaining method claims should be examined together. In view of a fair interpretation of the claims, the Examiner will join Groups I and II together, as well as Groups III and IV, so that the elected Group I now covers claims 1-14, drawn to compounds and compositions according to formula (I).

Affirmation of this election must be made by applicant in replying to this Office action. 9.9.

Accordingly, claims 15-33 withdrawn from further consideration by the examiner, 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a non-elected invention.

9. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

10. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

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11. Claim 14 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as not being fully enabled. While various active ingredients may be listed in the specification, the claims are not enabled for *all* additional agents as claimed since there is no indication as to the full range of active ingredients that could be utilized.

In *In re Wands*, 8 USPQ2d 1400 (1988), factors to be considered in determining whether a disclosure meets the enablement requirement of 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, have been described. They are:

1. the nature of the invention,
2. the state of the prior art,
3. the predictability or lack thereof in the art,
4. the amount of direction or guidance present,
5. the presence or absence of working examples,
6. the breadth of the claims,
7. the quantity of experimentation needed, and
8. the level of the skill in the art.

***The nature of the invention***

The nature of the invention is a pharmaceutical composition, containing a compound of claims 1, 2, 11, or 12 and one or more additional “active ingredients.”

***The state of the prior art and the predictability or lack thereof in the art***

It is well recognized in the medical art that treatment of diseases or symptoms are not analogous terms. The nature of pharmaceutical arts is that it involves screening *in vitro* and *in vivo* to determine which compounds exhibit the desired pharmacological activities. There is no absolute predictability even in view of the seemingly high level of skill in the art. The existence of these obstacles establishes that the contemporary knowledge in the art would prevent one of ordinary skill in the art from accepting any therapeutic regimen on its face. Also, in the absence of a showing of correlation between *all* of the agents encompassed by claim 14 and the compound of claims 1, 2, 11, or 12, one of skill in the art is unable to fully predict possible

results from the administration of the claimed compounds.

***The amount of direction or guidance present and  
the presence or absence of working examples***

Treatment of specific diseases or disorders is normally disease or symptom oriented, thus are highly individualized, i.e. a composition for treating inflammatory diseases would not employ the same agents (requires an additional NSAID agent) as a composition for treating hypertension (requires an additional calcium channel blocker). If Applicants allege that treating said disorders benefit from the inhibiting NEP, then Applicants must demonstrate that a composition for inhibiting the biochemical pathway of NEP and all of the possible combinations of compositions of claim 14 are inexorably linked. Applicants have provided no support whatsoever in the Specification for the additional “active ingredients” recited, other than the laundry list found on pages 30-41. The efficacy of a pharmaceutical composition intended for treatment of a specific disease/disorder needs to be specifically and individually supported by factual evidence. The data provided in the disclosure is insufficient evidence for all possible compositions claimed. A disclosure should contain representative examples, which provide reasonable assurance to one skilled in the art that compounds fall within the scope of a claim will possess the alleged activity. See *In re Riat et al.* (CCPA 1964) 327 F2d 685, 140USPQ 471; *In re Barr et al.* (CCPA 1971) 444 F 2d 349, 151 USPQ 724.

***The breadth of the claims***

Applicants are claiming a composition containing a broad number of additional ingredients, agents or inhibitors. The argument that the agents claimed by the Applicants are dependent upon the disease being treated is insufficient support that the Applicants are enabled



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for all vasodilator agents, modulatory agents, etc.

***The quantity of experimentation needed***

The quantity of experimentation needed is undue. One of ordinary skill in the art without direction, would be unable to test each and every combination encompassed by claim 14. One of skill in the art would need to determine whether the claimed composition would provide treatment of all of the disorders/conditions intended, and there are certainly hundreds of combinations of compositions encompassed by the claim. Based on the unpredictable nature of the invention and the state of the prior art and the breadth of the claims, one of ordinary skill in the art would be burdened with undue “experimentation study” to determine whether the claimed composition would in fact treat the targeted disorder.

***The level of the skill in the art***

The level of skill in the art is high. However, due to the unpredictability in the pharmaceutical art, it is noted that each embodiment of the invention is required to be individually assessed for physiological activity by *in vitro* and *in vivo* screening to determine which compounds and agents exhibit the desired pharmacological activity and which diseases would benefit from this activity.

Thus, the specification fails to provide sufficient support of the broad recitation of any or all agents, ingredients, inhibitors, etc of claim 14. As a result, necessitating one of skill to perform an exhaustive search for which claimed compositions can be utilized.

The Examiner suggests claiming some specific agents that are enabled by the Specification or in literature, and to provide support for the recited compositions.

***Conclusion***

12. In conclusion, claims 1-33 are pending in the instant application, claims 15-33 are currently withdrawn from consideration, and claim 14 is rejected.

**Telephone Inquiry**

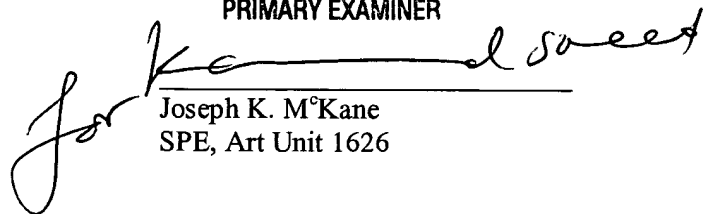
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Janet L. Coppins whose telephone number is 571.272.0680. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph K. McKane can be reached on 571.272.0699. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Janet L. Coppins  
June 24, 2006

KAMAL A. SAEED, Ph.D.  
PRIMARY EXAMINER

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Joseph K. McKane  
SPE, Art Unit 1626